

The
Alaska Safety Gauge

Alaska's teens ask,

“What would my

ELDERS

advise?”

*Water, Fire and Firearm Safety/
Poisoning Prevention for Alaska's Teens*

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This project was supported in part by MC00002-01 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health and Section of Community Health and Emergency Medical Services.

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THE ALASKA SAFETY GAUGE

A Survival Guide for Alaska's Teens

Preface:

Too many teens in Alaska are dying unnecessarily. Other young Alaskans must suffer the physical consequences of their unsafe actions day after day for the rest of their lives.

Firearms, poisons, fires and water dangers are just a few of the hazards threatening Alaska's teenagers. That is simply how it is. But danger doesn't have to lead to tragedy!

In this booklet, you'll learn that safety is more than what you do or don't do. Safety is an attitude. A safe person:

- Stands in power,
- Is informed and trained to think forward, considering the consequences of every action and the potential for danger; and
- Takes safe action for himself or herself and for others.

A safety attitude is fueled by truthful information and by a willingness to keep an open mind about stopping unsafe habits. A safety attitude is sustained by honoring all life. This booklet presents truthful information about the real dangers that Alaska's teens must face everyday. It also comes with a tool, *The Alaska Safety Gauge*, that can help you activate your own personal attitude for safety.

The Alaska Safety Gauge

Alaska's Native peoples respect the wisdom and advice available to them through their elders and their chiefs. There will be many times in your life when you will seek the counsel of a revered elder who has experienced love, loss, courage or fear. Unfortunately, an elder may not always be near when you are in harm's way or are presented with situations that test your attitude for safety. But these questions might flash through your mind as you deal with immediate peril: "What would my father or grandfather say? What would our chief advise in this situation? What would my mother or grandmother want me to do?"

The Alaska Safety Gauge can help you quickly draw on the calm power of an elders advice. The Gauge uses the word "ELDERS" to remind you of a series of questions to ask yourself to help you avoid risk or get out of danger. Let's see how it works.

THE ALASKA SAFETY GAUGE: "What would my elders advise?"

E	Environment:	Is there anything I can physically add to or remove from the environment to make this situation safe for myself or others?
L	Leave:	Is leaving the area the safest behavior for this situation?
D	Danger:	What action(s) can I perform to reduce the danger in this situation?
E	Embarrassment:	Could I feel regret or be embarrassed should I have to live with the consequences of an unsafe behavior in this situation?
R	Respect:	Am I respecting the role of nature in this situation?
S	Self:	Am I taking care of myself? Am I asking for the help I need?

Dangerous situations can be addressed and potential harm can be averted by asking yourself the *Alaska Safety Gauge* questions. In this booklet, you'll find examples of how *The Alaska Safety Gauge* can work for you.





Using the Alaska Safety Gauge – Water Safety

Joe, who is 14 years old, and his sister Ruth, who is 11, have been given permission to take the family's boat out on the river for a day of fishing. They have learned from the village health aide that some teens and children in Alaska have drowned because of unsafe behavior near the water. Because there is no swimming pool in the village and the river water is too cold for swimming, many children in the village, including Joe and Ruth, do not know how to swim. They must depend on their float coats or life jackets to keep them from drowning should they fall into deep or fast moving water. Joe and Ruth have learned from their parents that the river water moves swiftly and can easily carry them away if they fall overboard.

Joe loves his little sister and knows he has a responsibility to keep her from harm. Because Ruth would have a hard time trying to get home without him, Joe has an extra responsibility for keeping himself safe too. Joe wants to make sure that his personal attitude for safety is on keen alert. Joe should use the *Alaska Safety Gauge* questions to guide his behavior so that he and Ruth can have a fun and safe day on the water.

THE ALASKA SAFETY GAUGE: Water Safety

E	Environment:	<p>Is there anything I can physically add to or remove from the environment to make this situation safe for myself or others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joe should make sure he and his sister have well-fitting float coats or life jackets in the boat.• Joe should bring a flashlight in case it gets dark before they return.• Joe should check the boat for leaks or other damage and make sure there is plenty of fuel in the outboard motor.
L	Leave:	<p>Is leaving the area the safest behavior for this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On this day, other than a damaged boat or bad weather, there is no reason that should keep Joe and Ruth from enjoying their day on the water.
D	Danger:	<p>What action(s) can I perform to reduce the danger in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just having float coats or life jackets in the boat doesn't make the situation safe. Joe and Ruth must wear their properly fastened float coats or life jackets the entire time they are near the water.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe should take care when baiting fishhooks. He should bait Ruth's hook for her until she can do it safely for herself.
E	Embarrassment:	<p>Could I feel regret or be embarrassed should I have to live with the consequences of an unsafe behavior in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving around on a boat without taking care to keep it balanced in the water can tip you overboard. If you take off your float coat or life jacket while you're near the water, it won't be there to keep you afloat if you fall in. Entering a boat incorrectly can cause you to fall in the water. (Enter a canoe by holding on to the crossbars. Enter an outboard boat from the end of the boat, by the motor.)
R	Respect:	<p>Am I respecting the role of nature in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe should check weather reports before he and Ruth leave on their fishing excursion. A storm signifies real danger when boaters are out on the ocean or exploring one of Alaska's many lakes and rivers. Joe and Ruth should know that hazy, high clouds that form a halo around the sun or moon could mean a storm in a few hours. Rolling dark clouds mean that a bad storm could reach their boat in just minutes. If a storm comes up, Joe and Ruth should stop fishing and head for the shore and shelter, keeping away from any tall trees.
S	Self:	<p>Am I taking care of myself? Am I asking for the help I need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe should be sure that he is up to the responsibility of caring for his sister. Joe should make sure that others know where he and Ruth will be fishing and when they should be home.



Fred and Mike are both 15. They attend the village school, help with family chores, play video games and think about what they will do and how it will be when they become men. Once a week, Fred and Mike are allowed to take a family boat to a nearby town where they can buy groceries and supplies, rent movies and visit family friends. The town also has a hospital, some restaurants and of course, other teens to hang out with.

One particular Saturday, Fred and Mike arrange to stay overnight in the town with friends of Fred's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nikoli and their son Peter, who is 13. After a two-hour boat ride and quick trips to the hardware store for Mike's dad and the grocery store for Fred's mom, the boys pack away their purchases and head to the Nikoli's house. Mrs. Nikoli has dinner waiting. While the boys are eating dinner, Mrs. Nikoli tells them that she and her husband are attending a special concert at the town center and asks if Fred and Mike can look out for Peter while they are at the concert. Mrs. Nikoli even offers to give them taxi fare and a few extra dollars so all the boys can get themselves something for dessert at the grocery store.

At the store, Fred buys an ice cream sandwich, Mike a package of chocolate doughnuts and Peter a candy bar. They decide to walk back to the Nikoli's and use the rest of the taxi money to play a video game by the store's entrance. There is quite a crowd around the game machine and they have to wait awhile to have a turn. Peter approaches one of the players. He looks older than Peter but they seem to be friends.

Peter greets the other boy, "Hey Bill, what's up?"

"I'm just waiting for Joey. We're going to try something a little different today," Bill tells Peter with a wink. "Why don't you and your friends come along?" Bill asks as another older boy and a pretty girl approach the group.

Peter introduces Fred and Mike to Joey and Emily and Bill invites the group over to his house. Fred and Mike know they are responsible for keeping Peter safe and feel like they should probably go back to Peter's house. But they don't like the idea of a 13-year-old knowing more about what's "different" than they do. They want to fit in with the town kids and Emily is pretty, really pretty. Because Peter's parents aren't expected home for hours, Fred and Mike agree to go along for a few minutes.

The kids gather inside the storage shed behind Bill's house. A single bulb dangling from the ceiling dimly reveals a broken snow machine, tools and sacks of dog food. Boxes to sit on are arranged around an electric heater. Warmed by the glow of the heater, Fred and Mike are enjoying being away from the village, out on their own and making new friends. It's pretty fun talking about movies and school. Emily is really nice and seems interested in them, asking all kinds of questions about where Fred and Mike live and about their families.

On the other side of the shed, Bill, Joey and Peter are poking around behind the snow machine. Bill pulls out a gas can and stretches his sweatshirt to make a tent over the opening at the top of the can. "I'm first," he says as he sticks his head under his sweatshirt. Mike and Fred exchange looks. They can't believe what they're seeing.

They've talked with their parents about the dangers of smoking and drinking and taking pills or using drugs. But this was different – it's only gasoline after all. Besides, the town kids seem to know what they're doing. They don't seem worried.

Joey catches their reaction. "Oh come on guys, a little huffing isn't going to hurt anybody," he assures them. "Young Peter here has been asking if he could join in for weeks. Besides, tonight the gas is just for starters. I've got a new aerosol that's supposed to really make you feel interesting."

Joey begins breathing in fumes from under the tent he's made over the gas can with his jacket. After a few minutes, he raises his head. His eyes are really red. Giggling, Joey stumbles a bit as he brings the gas can over for someone else to take a turn.

Even though the other kids do seem to be old hands at huffing, Fred and Mike aren't sure what to do. They look at each other, whispering simultaneously the words they learned from the village health aide, "Safety Gauge". Fred and Mike know they can decide the best way to act by reflecting on what their elders would say about this situation.

THE ALASKA SAFETY GAUGE: Poison

E	Environment:	<p>Is there anything I can physically add to or remove from the environment to make this situation safe for myself or others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">By themselves, gasoline, dog food, tools and a snow machine aren't dangerous. The shed is in good repair. The physical environment is safe unless fire becomes an issue.
L	Leave:	<p>Is leaving the area the safest behavior for this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fred and Mike feel like they should leave but only if Peter comes with them. They had accepted responsibility for his safety. If necessary, they are willing to force Peter to come with them or to summon his parents.
D	Danger:	<p>What action(s) can I perform to reduce the danger in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fred and Mike are happy to have each other as they deal with indecision. Having a buddy makes it easier to say, "Not now."Fred and Mike think they should hold off making a choice to join in until they know more about the dangers of huffing.Even though Peter seems to want to huff the gas,

		Fred and Mike feel they should ask him not to join in while they are there and responsible for his safety.
E	Embarrassment:	<p>Could I feel regret or be embarrassed should I have to live with the consequences of an unsafe behavior in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred and Mike can tell the fumes are having an effect on Joey's behavior. He had seemed nice and interesting, but after huffing, Joey becomes withdrawn, laughing hysterically one minute and then crying the next. He even vomits all over his shoes. Fred and Mike are embarrassed for themselves and for Joey. They don't want to do anything to make them look as silly as Joey does, especially in front of Emily. Mike and Fred know that if anything happens to either of them or to Peter as a result of huffing, they will feel very guilty. Mike and Fred know that if any of their parents knew they were huffing, they would lose their boat privileges and their independent Saturdays in town.
R	Respect:	<p>Am I respecting the role of nature in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred and Mike can almost hear the voices of their Elders. "Would the wise raven, the noble moose or the giving caribou bend their noses to sniff gasoline or chemicals? Are the lungs, the heart, the liver and the brain designed to take in fumes?" Huffing can kill, even the first time. Huffing some inhalants can cause a heart attack that can kill you within minutes. Car, ATV and snow machine crashes have resulted from the blurred vision, sleepiness and nausea that inhalants can cause.
S	Self:	<p>Am I taking care of myself? Am I asking for the help I need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred and Mike can best honor the love of their elders and honor themselves and their new friends by asking the village health aide or another caring adult to counsel and educate them and their friends about the real risks of huffing.



Helen, Ned, and Agnes live with their parents in a Northern Alaska village that is also home to about thirty other families. Helen is 18 years old, Ned is 15 and Agnes just turned 13. The family feels lucky because the village has a great school building, a shower building and a community health aide clinic. The family appreciates their many blessings of great friends, their love for each other and the food and shelter they need to stay healthy and happy. They live as many Natives, hunting and fishing for food as well as shopping in the closest town about thirty-five miles away. The town is accessible by boat in the summer and by snow machine or dog sled in the winter.

Helen, Ned and Agnes's parents own many firearms. Everyone in the family except Agnes knows how to use firearms but only her older brother and sister are allowed to hunt for food for their home. Agnes's father thinks she is still too young to hunt. Knowledge of firearms also provides the family a means of protection from bears and other wild animals.

The parents in this close family have spent considerable time teaching their children to respect the power of firearms and especially how to behave safely when they are handling firearms or when they are around others who are handling them. Firearms of any kind, including air guns, paint guns, nail guns, dart guns and flare throwers, are very serious weapons. Helen, Ned and Agnes know the basic rules of firearm safety:

1. They should consider every gun to be loaded until examined and determined to be otherwise.
2. They should never point a gun at anything they don't want to shoot or kill.
3. They should keep firearms unloaded until they are prepared to fire.
4. They should keep their fingers off the trigger until absolutely prepared to fire.
5. They should know exactly what the target is and what is to each side and behind the target to avoid hitting anything they don't want to destroy

When they were very young, Helen, Ned and Agnes knew not to touch guns and their parents always locked up the family's firearms. The ammunition was also locked up, in a different place from where the guns were kept. Now that the children are older and have developed more safe habits, there is a more casual attitude about the family's firearms. The ammunition and the guns are stored together in a cupboard in the mud room just off the front porch. The guns and ammunition are not locked up anymore.

Every once in a while, Helen, Ned and Agnes are allowed to take the family's guns for target practice at an open place on the tundra. Cans and jugs full of water are placed as targets on top of a couple of overturned barrels. The three teens take turns shooting at the targets to see how many times they can hit them with bullets. Helen and Ned are pretty

good shots. Even Agnes can hit the target about every third try. When a bullet hits a water jug, water pours from the hole. The kids can see that guns are not toys. That leaking water could just as easily be someone's life blood should they be hit by a bullet.

Usually, Helen, Ned and Agnes target practice alone, but today some of their parents' friends and their children, Eric and Marie, are visiting from the nearby town. Helen, Ned and Agnes ask if Eric and Marie can come with them for target practice. As the oldest, Helen is put in charge of the group and they make their way to where the barrels stand waiting for the jugs, cans and the noise of gunfire.

At first, everything goes smoothly. Helen carefully shows Eric and Marie how to release the gun's safety mechanism, how to stand and how to aim the 22-gauge rifle before even putting a finger on the trigger. She watches them take turns firing the gun. None of the shots that Eric and Marie make connect with the cans on the first try. While Helen is instructing the other kids, Ned and Agnes are busy loading another rifle. Agnes is very anxious to show her new friends what a good shot she is.

"I can do it, I can do it," Agnes insists impatiently, tugging at the gun to get it away from Ned.

"Okay, then. Just don't shoot yourself," Ned says.

As Helen turns away from Eric and Marie to tell her brother and sister to settle down, Marie pulls the trigger on the 22 rifle she's holding. The gun doesn't fire. Clicking the trigger again, Marie swings around with the gun in her hand to see what's going on with Ned and Agnes. As she turns, the gun fires and the bullet just misses Agnes, hitting the ground with a dull flat sound and sending up a puff of snow powder just inches from where Agnes and Ned are standing.

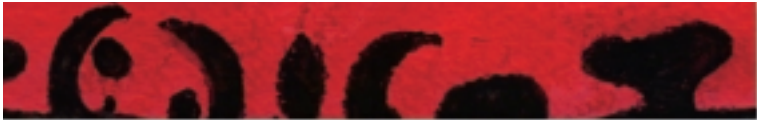
Frantic, Helen tells everyone to put down the firearms. She is so upset about what could have happened. She searches her mind for directions about how she should handle this very close call. Helen remembers what she learned about *The Alaska Safety Gauge*. She wonders why she didn't go through the system of considering how her elders would advise the group target practice before all the children even left the house. She should have gotten more information about what Marie and Eric really knew about firearms. Agnes almost paid the price of her life because the group wasn't prepared mentally and Marie and Eric weren't trained for target practice.

Even though she should have thought of safety before they started shooting, Helen takes the opportunity to share the *safety gauge* teachings with Ned, Agnes, Eric and Marie right there on the spot of their near tragedy. Helen explains how each letter in the word "elders" corresponds to a *safety gauge* word and idea as a way for any of them to make safe decisions when they are confronted with a dangerous situation.

THE ALASKA SAFETY GAUGE: Firearms

E	Environment:	<p>Is there anything I can physically add to or remove from the environment to make this situation safe for myself or others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen reminds the group that even though target practice can be fun, guns are not toys. No one should use guns to show-off. Helen gathers the firearms, secures each safety mechanism and places the guns on the ground at her side.
L	Leave:	<p>Is leaving the area the safest behavior for this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen doesn't think they should resume target practice, but they are in a safe and appropriate place to talk about what happened and how to make sure it won't happen again.
D	Danger:	<p>What action(s) can I perform to reduce the danger in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen can use the group's close call as an example of why it is important to know about firearm safety. Helen reminds the group of firearm safety rules.
E	Embarrassment:	<p>Could I feel regret or be embarrassed should I have to live with the consequences of an unsafe behavior in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With tears in her eyes, Helen tells the group how terribly sorry she is for not making sure everyone knew about firearm safety. She had accepted responsibility for everyone's safety. She can only imagine how sad she would feel if any of them were hurt. Agnes apologizes to Helen and the others. She tells them that even though she knew better, it was her struggling to show off her marksmanship that distracted the group. She promises to consider target practice a serious venture in the future. Helen, Ned, Marie and Eric all give Agnes a big hug, thankful that she is okay and honoring the person that she is.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ned speaks up as well, "Just because we've been taught firearm safety, we act like everyone has been taught how to handle guns. We should talk to Mom and Dad about locking up the guns and ammunition again. Village children are always coming over to the house. If one of them were to find one of our firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, we'd never get over how guilty we'd feel."
R	Respect:	<p>Am I respecting the role of nature in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Helen asks if anyone had ever been hunting when an animal was shot. She reminds them that just as an animal struggles for its last breath and bleeds from wounds, a person hit by a bullet would go through the same pain and devastation.
S	Self:	<p>Am I taking care of myself? Am I asking for the help I need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Helen admits that she was too quick to assume responsibility for four younger and more inexperienced people at target practice. She tells the group, "I just didn't and still don't have all the help I need to make sure you all are safe."Everyone goes home to talk to their parents about what happened. Helen will immediately take important steps to make sure the firearm storage at her family's house is safer.





"Alright, alright already," Nick protests. "If I am sleeping and the smoke alarm sounds, I will crawl to my bedroom door and feel it to see if it's hot. I know it will be dark and I won't be able to see. I will yell "fire" as I crawl to the right, down the hall and out the side door to the yard. I will wait for everyone by the dog yard next door."

Nick recites the words like a robot. Absolutely bored with the weekly ritual, he's anxious to get outside where his friends are waiting. His sister Julie giggles at his automaton act.

Nick is reciting part of the fire safety plan he and his grandparents had worked out years ago, preparing for an imaginary fire that would probably never happen. It is a routine at the house in the village where he and Julie have lived with their grandparents since their parents died in a hotel fire in Seattle six years ago. He was only seven years old when his parents died. His little sister was just a baby back then. Nick can't help smiling as he listens to Julie obediently answer her grandmother's question, "What is the best thing to do if your clothes or hair catch fire?"

"Stop, drop and roll," Julie yells as she demonstrates each step right there on the kitchen floor.

"Can I go now?" Nick asks impatiently. "We've been through this a million times."

"Repetition, repetition," says his grandfather. "That's the key to learning the *Alaska Safety Gauge*. You can go now. We'll finish up with your sister."

Julie sticks her tongue out at Nick as he grabs his backpack and bolts for the front door. She has to endure a few more minutes of the fire safety lecture before she can go back to practicing stick jumping. Nick knows Julie is in for the weekly tour of the kitchen. She'll go through the rest of the fire safety steps with her grandparents, first watching them turn the pot handles in and away from the stoves edge. She'll watch Grandpa place burner covers on the stove burners that aren't being used. Like a well rehearsed actress, Julie will take five steps back and away from the oven door as Grandma pretends to open it to check on dinner. Then will come the promises: a promise not to play in the kitchen, a promise not to play with matches and a promise not to light candles by herself.

Julie is in for at least fifteen more minutes of fire safety education. Nick remembers the process well. He's glad that he's already graduated from that part of the family's ritual. At least Grandma makes it seem like a fun game. But Nick thinks he has better things to do.

"Dude, where ya been?" Ralph and Louis exclaim in unison as Nick hustles outside. Bored, Louis is poking through the wood slats on the walkway in front of the house with a long stick.

"Hey, I'm here now. Have you got your stuff?" Nick asks as they set off down the street.

"We're all set," Louis assures him.

The boys had just a few hours left to work on the masks they were carving for their school's Native arts show. Most of the carving was already done. Tonight they would paint their masks and add some decoration. Ralph's dad had said they could work on their art projects in the workroom attached to the back of his house.

Arriving at the workroom, the boys get right to work, taking cans of paint and brushes

from their backpacks and off the shelves, stirring the colors until they're well mixed.

"How about some ice cream?" Ralph's mother calls out from the kitchen door that opens on the workroom. She doesn't have to ask the boys twice. They leave the paint cans open on the floor and crowd through the door to the kitchen.

"Eat up," Ralph's mother encourages them as she places bowls of the sweet, rich dessert in front of them. "Ralph, your father and I are going to the community center for a few minutes. Clean up after yourselves before you go back to work on your masks."

Ralph's parents aren't out the door ten minutes when it happens. The boys are goofing off at the kitchen table, shoveling their ice cream in like robots.

"Wait a minute, wait a minute," Nick insists. "What was that noise?" Nick is sure he had just heard a huge whoosh sound.

"What are you talking about?" Ralph asks as he bangs out a song on the table with his spoon. "I didn't hear anything."

Carrying their bowls of dessert, the boys move into the family room, laughing and singing along with a music video blaring from the TV. Suddenly, a loud popping sound comes from the workroom. All the lights go out and it's pitch black. The smoke alarm sounds. Almost immediately, the boys can smell smoke pouring out of the vents in the ceiling and from around the light fixtures. Ralph runs towards the kitchen. Not that familiar with Ralph's house, Nick and Louis are concentrating on trying to get their bearings when they realize Ralph is gone.

"Wait, wait," Nick tells Louis. "Don't touch anything." He yells into the darkness, "Ralph, Ralph, where are you?"

"I'm in the kitchen but I'm all turned around," Ralph shouts back in a panic. "Oh, no! What should we do? What should we do?"

"Calm down!" Nick says forcefully. "Everyone drop to the floor. Ralph, crawl towards my voice because Louis and I need your help to guide us out of here".

Never in his life was Nick so glad that his grandparents had spent years preparing him for a situation just like this. He thinks of his grandfather, his most important elder clansman, the man who he loves as a father and remembers his advice.

Nick knows exactly what to do. He knows he has to help his friends. He also knows that even a little mistake could mean tragedy. *The Alaska Safety Gauge* fills Nick's mind. Quickly, he thinks of the letters that correspond to the steps of the *Alaska Safety Gauge*. Remembering, he spells the letters aloud, "E-L-D-E-R-S."

"Elders?" Louis questions.

"It's the key to the *Alaska Safety Gauge*," Nick assures him. "By following the steps of the Gauge, we can make it out of here safely."

The Alaska Safety Gauge: Fire Safety

E	Environment:	<p>Is there anything I can physically add to or remove from the environment to make this situation safe for myself or others?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick tells Ralph to stay away from the hot door separating the kitchen from the workroom. Nick now knows that the "whoosh" he had heard earlier was the sound of the water heater's pilot light igniting fumes coming from the paint cans on the floor. Nick tells Ralph to reach up and close the kitchen door behind him as he crawls forward into the family room. Putting another barrier between themselves and the fire is an important step.
L	Leave:	<p>Is leaving the area the safest behavior for this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick knows they all have to get out of the house fast.
D	Danger:	<p>What action(s) can I perform to reduce the danger in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as Ralph makes it to the other boys, Nick calmly asks him to imagine where they are in the house and which direction they should crawl in to reach the nearest door to the outside. Crawling under the thick smoke in single file, the boys move through the family room and down the hall towards the front door. They can hear glass breaking in the kitchen. Nick knows he has to keep the others moving forward calmly.
E	Embarrassment:	<p>Could I feel regret or be embarrassed should I have to live with the consequences of an unsafe behavior in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick chides himself for not remembering that paint fumes can catch fire easily but doesn't let that stop his steady movement towards the front door. Getting his friends out safely will be reward enough for his years of preparation. Nick can't help thinking about how his own parents must have felt in the dark battling the

		<p>the smoke and fire in a strange hotel more than seven years ago. Now, Nick understands why his grandparents were so relentless with their safety messages.</p>
R	Respect:	<p>Am I respecting the role of nature in this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nick knows there's not much time before smoke can overwhelm a victim. He knows that he and his friends could be unconscious long before flames were to reach them. Getting out is the only way to stay safe.
S	Self:	<p>Am I taking care of myself? Am I asking for the help I need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When they reach the front door, Nick carefully checks if it's hot so he'll know whether there is fire on the other side. Turning the cool knob, Nick remembers his grandfather's instructions. "Enter every house, schoolroom or building with a quick eye for the nearest exit." He realizes that without Ralph's directions, he could have wandered aimlessly, unable to get out.• The village residents are running towards the house as the boys emerge from the front door. The boys all realize how much they love and need their families' support and care.

